


Substitute for form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/972,942
<div style="position: absolute; top: 50px; left: 350px; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> TYPE JC138 MAR 05 2002 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE </div>				Confirmation Number	4815
				Filing Date	October 10, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Nobuyuki SUDA
				Art Unit	1762
				Examiner Name	Not yet Assigned
Sheet 1 of 1				Attorney Docket Number	Q65006

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
ME		US 4,126,720		11/21/1978	Edwards
ME		US 5,374,324		12/20/1994	Vinson et al.
ME		US 4,300,878		11/17/1981	Ible
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
ME		Europe	0 478 258	A2	4/1/1992	Sumotomo Rubber Industries Ltd.	N/A
ME		Europe	0 619 170	A2	12/10/1994	The Goodyear Tire and Rubber	N/A
ME		DE	195 45 079	A1	6/13/1996	Ingolf Von Ronn	No

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	17/Nov/03
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.